

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for applying a compressive load on body tissue, the apparatus comprising:

a catheter having proximal and distal ends and a lumen extending ~~therethrough~~ through the catheter;

a balloon affixed to the catheter, the balloon being in fluid communication with the lumen and having contracted and deployed states, wherein the balloon ~~comprises~~ assumes a predetermined shape in the deployed state; and

a stent having contracted and deployed states, wherein the stent is plastically deformable by the balloon and substantially conforms to the predetermined shape of the balloon in the deployed state, wherein the stent is configured to apply a compressive load on surrounding body tissue when in the deployed state;

wherein, in the deployed state, the balloon is maintained in the predetermined shape, at least in part, by an anchor element extending along a constrained portion of the surface of the balloon and limiting expansion of the balloon in the constrained portion in comparison with expansion in an unconstrained portion in which the anchor element is not present when the balloon changes from its contracted to its deployed state.

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the balloon ~~comprises~~ assumes a curved shape in the deployed state.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the anchor element is disposed within the balloon.

34-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein, when the balloon is in the deployed state, the anchor element is curved along the surface of the balloon.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein, when the balloon is in the contracted state, the anchor element is substantially straight along the surface of the balloon.

40. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for applying a compressive load on body tissue, the apparatus comprising:

~~a elongate~~ an elongate delivery member having proximal and distal ends and a lumen extending ~~therethrough~~ through the elongate delivery member;

a balloon affixed to the elongate delivery member, the balloon being in fluid communication with the lumen and having contracted and deployed states, wherein the balloon ~~comprises~~ assumes a predetermined shape in the deployed state; and

an elongate member having first and second states, wherein the elongate member is plastically deformed from the first state to the second state by the balloon when the balloon changes from the contracted state to the deployed state;

wherein the elongate member substantially conforms to a surface of the balloon in the deployed state, wherein the elongate member is configured to apply a compressive load on adjacent body tissue when in the second state;

wherein, in the deployed state, the balloon is maintained in the predetermined shape, at least in part, by an anchor element extending along a constrained portion of the surface of the balloon that restrains expansion of the balloon in the constrained portion in comparison with expansion in an unconstrained portion of the balloon in which the anchor element is not present.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the balloon comprises a curved shape in the deployed state.

42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the anchor element is disposed within the balloon.

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein, when the balloon is in the deployed state, the anchor element is curved along the surface of the balloon.

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein, when the balloon is in the contracted state, the anchor element is substantially straight along the surface of the balloon.